

JUN 03 2003

Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0111

#7



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN, et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND
COMPUTER PROGRAM
PRODUCT FOR
DISTRIBUTOR/SUPPLIER
SELECTION IN A SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/834,924

Filing Date: 04/13/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2176

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Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §608). An English Abstract is attached for document A22.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Date June 2, 2003

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: June 2, 2003 (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	2	Application Number	09/834,924
				Filing Date	04/13/2001
				First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN
				Group Art Unit	2176
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	062834-0111



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A1	4,713,761			Sharpe et al.	12-15-1987	RECEIVED
A2	4,799,156			Shavit et al.	01-17-1989	JUN 04 2003
A3	5,305,199			LoBiondo et al.	04-19-1994	
A4	5,712,989			Johnson et al.	01-27-1998	
A5	5,758,329			Wojcik et al.	05-26-1998	
A6	5,884,300			Brockman	03-16-1999	Technology Center 2100
A7	5,893,076			Hafner et al.	04-06-1999	
A8	5,970,469			Scroggie et al.	10-19-1999	
A9	5,970,475			Barnes et al.	10-19-1999	
A10	6,064,981			Barni et al.	05-16-2000	
A11	6,134,557			Freeman	10-17-2000	
A12	6,138,106			Walker et al.	10-24-2000	
A13	6,148,291			Radican	11-14-2000	
A14	6,157,915			Bhaskaran	12-05-2000	
A15	6,219,653	B1		O'Neill et al.	04-17-2001	
A16	6,263,317	B1		Sharp et al.	07-17-2001	
A17	6,324,522	B2		Peterson et al.	11-27-2001	
A18	6,341,271	B1		Salvo et al.	01-22-2002	
A19	6,393,408	B1		Mosher et al.	05-21-2002	
A20	6,418,416	B1		Rosenberg et al.	07-09-2002	
A21	2002/0019759	A1		Arunapuram et al.	02-14-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
A22	JP	2002236730 A			SUGIOKA, MIKIO	08-23-2002		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
A23		Information on Deal Time International, 1998-2002	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Sheet	2	of	2	Group Art Unit	2176
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	062834-0111

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO
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⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.
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